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TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-KINGSVILLE ANNOUNCES RIO GRANDE VALLEY ENGINEERING INITIATIVE

University will begin offering engineering courses at Weslaco Citrus Center in January 2015

KINGSVILLE (October 31, 2014) — Texas A&M University-Kingsville announced a new plan to bring Javelina Engineering to the Rio Grande Valley Friday.

The Texas A&M University-Kingsville Rio Grande Valley Engineering Initiative will expand engineering educational and research programs to the flourishing Rio Grande Valley starting in January. Initial offerings will include bachelor's programs in chemical, environmental and natural gas engineering. Classes will be held at the A&M-Kingsville Citrus Center in Weslaco. While a limited amount of courses will be offered in January, the first cohort of engineering students is expected to be admitted in Fall of 2015. The initiative will make it possible for engineering students in Rio Grande Valley to earn a Texas A&M-Kingsville degree from the Weslaco campus.

"This is a monumental day for both Texas A&M University-Kingsville and the Rio Grande Valley," said A&M-Kingsville President Dr. Steven Tallant. "We have had a long-standing commitment to the Rio Grande Valley through our Citrus Center and engineering projects that are addressing some of the environmental challenges in the region. By offering engineering courses in Weslaco, we are building on that commitment and providing students with quality education that will prepare them for high-paying careers in STEM fields."

Students will receive the first two years of instruction from Rio Grande Valley community colleges. Students will then transfer to the Weslaco campus for their third and fourth years of college.

As the initiative grows, other programs at the bachelor's, master's and doctoral levels will be added. Graduate courses will consist of both on-campus instruction at the Weslaco site and online courses. Research will take place at the Weslaco campus. More than 35 faculty will provide instruction to the approximately 800 students who are projected to be enrolled at the Weslaco campus in the next five years.

"We are excited to offer more engineering opportunities in the Rio Grande Valley—an area that continues to grow at a phenomenal pace," said Dr. Stephan Nix, Dean of the Frank H. Dotterweich College of Engineering. "As the region grows, so will the need to develop a STEM-based workforce. Our college has a lot to offer the students of the Valley and we are eager to provide them with opportunities to develop as researchers, scholars and engineers."

About the Frank H. Dotterweich College of Engineering

The Frank H. Dotterweich College of Engineering produces highly sought-after engineers, conducts relevant research and is an active member of the community. The college has been producing highly qualified engineering graduates since 1936. The alumni of the college are leaders of industry, government and academia, providing a rich legacy for the college. Through active participation and leadership, each member of our community contributes to the well-being of the college, university, profession, and the community at large.

The college is home to a total of eight accredited programs. ABET-accredited programs include architectural, chemical, civil, electrical, environmental and mechanical engineering. The university's industrial technology program is accredited by the Association of Technology Management and Applied Engineering. The college offers nine undergraduate degrees and 10 graduate degrees, including a doctorate in environmental engineering.

Research institutes within the college provide students with hands-on learning opportunities. Faculty mentors work with students to develop critical research in environmental, architectural and natural gas engineering. Research institutes include the Eagle Ford Center for Research, Education and Outreach (EFCREO), the Institute of Architectural Engineering Heritage (IAEH), and the Institute for Sustainable Energy and the Environment (ISEE). Through the ISEE, the College of Engineering has developed several education and research programs in the Rio Grande Valley that focus on water quality, geographic information systems, storm water management and low impact development.

Approximately 2,825 students are enrolled in the College of Engineering this semester—1,284 undergraduates, 1,515 graduate students and 28 doctoral students.

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